

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14).

**People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need.** Our former Bishop D. António once said, "One must find new ways of helping the poor". A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that after the floods in 2010! In a short period of time we created partnerships with supermarket chains and restaurants; we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families from going hungry, getting their electricity cut off, running out of gas, losing their homes. **We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, and keep them dreaming...**

**The Mission Statement of People Helping People is...** through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

### >> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**EUROPE:** Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com

**USA:** Larry Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net



### >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

#### ACCOUNT NAME:

Associação Gente Ajudando Gente

**BANK:** Banco Santander Totta

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

**IBAN:** PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94

**SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL

**NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

#### Bank Address:

Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A,  
9020-119, Funchal  
Madeira, Portugal.



### >> DONATIONS FROM THE UK:

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Sinead Moynihan

**BANK:** Lloyds Bank

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 02461743

**BRANCH:** Univ. of Cambridge

**SORT CODE:** 30-13-55

**IBAN:** GB05 LOYD 3013 5502 4617 43

**BIC:** LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira. Any questions or concerns about transferring to this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan at: sineadmoynihian7@icloud.com

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

Please contact Mr. Larry Contreras (contact info below) for instructions on sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA.



Larry Contreras

Tel: 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> THE BASKET

Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel you will see a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you ! ☺



When sending any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that we are able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

**Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings.**

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

31st of March 2024

**Easter Sunday - Year B**

**10h00 Sunday Mass**

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal,  
Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**Email:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

**Happy Easter!** Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. Today we celebrate Easter Sunday!

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - Easter Sunday - Year B

(Vigil/Day- *Acts 10:34,37-43 Psalm 117(118) Romans 6:3-11/Colossians 3:1-4/1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Matthew 28:1-10/John 20:1-9*)

In a vision in **Acts**, Peter is told that all animals and birds are suitable for eating: the restrictions of the Jewish Law are ending. So he can enter the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter's speech is interrupted by the Holy Spirit welcoming the Gentile community into the church. Peter realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name. The vigil reading from Paul sees our baptism as joining Christ in his tomb, to rise to a new life in Christ, freed from the slavery of sin. The dramatic Passover **Psalm** thanks God for repeatedly coming to our rescue and saving us. Paul's letter to the **Colossians** draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: having died to things on earth, they should focus on the life to come when they "will appear with Christ in glory". The alternative reading refers to the feast of Unleavened Bread, which followed Passover. In the three synoptic gospels three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles. But in **John's gospel** Mary of Magdala is alone. Finding the stone removed from the tomb, she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

Brought to you by: **Chris Oliver**.... [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

\* The Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these sent to you by email or included in your parish newsletter, please contact Chris at: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!..." – 279
- [2] **Offertory Hymn:** "Crown him with many crowns..." – 119
- [3] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [4] **Communion:** "O comfort my people..." – 398
- [5] **Thanksgiving:** "Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord..." – 27
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "Thine be the glory..." - 570



## ENTERING AND LEAVING TIME AND SPACE, LIKE JESUS CHRIST



Fr. Aires

– By Father Aires Gameiro (aires.gameiro@isjd.pt)

The following are lines for prayerful reflection in Holy Week, because in it the Church celebrates the whole reality, temporal and eternal, divine and human, of Jesus Christ, and not just what is seen, the empirical reality.

When Jesus became incarnate, as God-man, he entered (descended) from on high (without time or space) into his incarnate life, in time and space, next to ours, in which he lived doing good until he died and passed back into eternity through the resurrection, leaving space and time.

In the Palm Sunday prayer we ask for three gifts:

"Eternal and almighty God, who, in order to give men an example of humility, willed that our Saviour 1) should become man and, 2) suffer the torture of the cross, grant

that we may follow the teachings of his passion, 3) that we may deserve to share in the glory of his resurrection." This prayer summarises Christ's life and expresses ours as following his, in suffering and passing on to glory. In the Catechism of Pius X we repeated: God created us to know, love and serve him in this life.

This week we celebrate the three ways of living:

1) Knowing, loving and serving God and our neighbour. 2) Living to love, serve and suffer: sufferings that we can and must avoid; sufferings that we can but must not avoid because they are part of loving and serving; sufferings that we cannot and must not avoid: incurable sufferings and dying. 3) These sufferings are part of the passage from time-space to glorious eternity. We could say that our existence comes from God's eternal love, outside of time and space. God "chose us (in Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless before him" (cf. Eph. 1:4). We were already a reality before generation, but not in space and time. Space and time will have begun with what exploded in the Big Bang, but science says it doesn't know if anything existed before that beginning and some say: nothing. Through the body we receive, with the collaboration of our parents, we enter time and space, so that with our being, soul and body, situated and temporised, we can serve God and our brothers and sisters, suffer, get sick and pass on, dying and rising again, to the resurrection of eternal glory where, already outside the limitations of space and time, we love. After all, we descended into life in order to love, die and rise again.

Reality, what exists, takes on sensible aspects, which can be seen and experienced, measured and weighed, in time and space and are the objects of science; and transcendent aspects, outside of space and time; these can be reached through faith in God present in these realities. Holy Week invites us to experience these realities, some of which are known through observation and science, and others through faith. Both our origin (where we come from) and our growth, our doing good and our suffering and dying can be known either by science or by faith. And the liturgy of the word guides us through the life, passion, death and resurrection of Christ. When we consider where we come from and where we are going (creation and resurrection), only by faith can we know these realities through God's presence, outside of time and space in God's happy vision.

If you ask an astrophysicist: "What existed before the Big Bang?", he will answer: "nothing". But then he'll add: "if I discover something, I'll tell you". And he'll be right because science hasn't seen anything yet. Just as science will say: "nothing", before one of us existed, by generation and birth: before that, we are still nothing for science. But by faith, St Paul, as we saw above, says that God "chose us before the creation of the world". How many billions of years ago? About 13.8 billion years!

And so the questions remain for us to meditate on during this Easter Triduum: what were we and where do we come from? What are we and where are we going after we die and are resurrected? Science will say: "nothing, from nowhere; nothing, to nowhere". But faith and love will say: "people, we come from God through creation; resurrected, we go wrapped in God's love, into eternity", outside of time and space. After all, Jesus said: "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who came down from heaven: the Son of Man" (Jn 3:7b-15). And he ascended after the resurrection. We believe that we have come down from heaven through the choice of God's love and that we will ascend to heaven through the promise of Jesus. Happy Easter!



Funchal, Holy Week, 2024 ..... Fr. Aires Gameiro, OH, (Brother of Saint John of God)

## MADEIRA'S EASTER TRADITIONS

Easter is one of the most important religious events in Madeira. This is a time full of traditions and customs that are lived with great intensity by the devoutly Catholic Madeiran population. Here are some of the events that took place in Holy Week this year:



### ON HOLY THURSDAY:

During the *Mass of the Lord's Supper* at the Sé Cathedral in Funchal (which included the rite of foot-washing), **D. Nuno Brás**, Bishop of Funchal, repeating Jesus' profound gesture of humility towards his disciples at the Last Supper, washed the feet of 12 chosen people, in this case 6 patients from the health institution "*Casa São Joao de Deus*" and 6 brothers from the *Confraria do Santíssimo da Sé* (Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament of the Sé Cathedral).

### ON GOOD FRIDAY:

The Passion of the Lord was celebrated this Friday, 29 March at the Cathedral. Large crowds of devout Madeiran Catholics gathered for the **Good Friday procession known as "O Enterro do Senhor"** (The Burial of Our Lord).

Photos of this tradition can be seen on the website: <https://www.jornaldamadeira.com/2024/03/29/sexta-feira-santa-bispo-exorta-fieis-a-rezar-como-jesus/>



## TRADITIONAL EASTER GOODIES IN MADEIRA

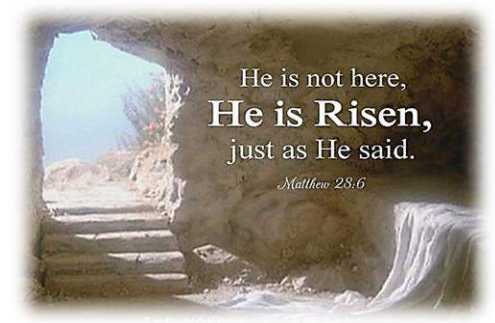
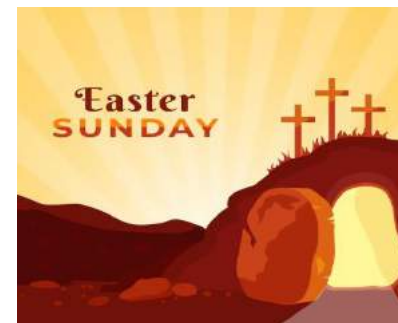
Some of the traditional pastries and sweets popular amongst locals during Easter:



(first pic. on the left): **FOLAR DA PÁSCOA** - A sweet bread, scented with cinnamon and Fennel seeds, often with one or more cooked eggs nestled in the centre;

(middle pic.) **AMÊNDOAS** - Sweet candy-covered almonds of different colours;

(pic. on the right) **TORRÕES DE AÇÚCAR** - These are very popular. The main ingredient is sugar, and there are different flavours, eg. Cocoa, almond, walnut, strawberry, orange, coconut, etc



## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

29/03/2024

*Hello friends!*

On Thursday we delivered the Easter hampers, and it was amazing. The bags were really filled with essential goods and wonderful Easter goodies donated by you!

Some of the families we delivered these goods to actually had called me earlier and told me they **didn't have any** kind of treats for their kids this Easter. They were surprised and really happy with the hampers.

It's always a mixture of shame, surprise, joy and relief that I see in our families when I deliver these kinds of goods. That, and a lot of thankfulness. So I feel obligated to make sure I pass along to all who helped, how thankful they all are for your kind hand in their dire moments...

And also thanks to you, our Easter sweets sale last Sunday was a success! In total we sold 207,10€ of sweets! This Sunday (today) we are back with more sweets, and hopefully you have brought some Tupperwares to pack more of them so you can enjoy later! I know at least one person who will!



And of course, next Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> of April), we will have the Orange Walkathon! We will have oranges, tangerines, water and a *People Helping People* t-shirt for all runners, so please try to let us know beforehand so we can make sure we have your size t-shirt available.

Even if you don't have a sponsor, come walk with us! Help us raise awareness for our cause, and get a bit of exercise done (and a t-shirt!) while you help!

Thank you again to all of you, and to our wonderful volunteers for making the world a little bit better for those in need.



Santa Catarina Park in Funchal – Orange Walkathon – April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

- Alexandre Silva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE BULLETIN

27/03/2024



The PHP (People Helping People) fund raising committee has been busy over the past few weeks.

Last Sunday after the 10am Mass we had a sale of confectionery made by some of the families who are supported by the charity. This has been an important step in enabling these families to gain confidence to take the initiative to help themselves.



For the last several weeks we have been collecting donations of food, hygiene products and easter eggs to make up hampers for the families in our care.



The basket at the door of the Chapel with some of the donations received over the last few weeks.

The hampers were made up this week and delivered to Alexandre Silva, who is the chairman of the charity. The hampers will be distributed to the families over the next few days.



Debbie and Carla worked hard during the week to organise and make up each hamper for distribution.



In all, seven hampers were made up, catering for 6 families (including 14 children) and one for an elderly gentleman who we help.

The Orange Walk-a-Thon, in honour of Fr. Bernardino, will be held next Sunday, in Santa Catarina Park, start at 11:30. Please consider sponsoring a "walker" for as little or as much as you like or join us and walk yourself! For more information or to collect a sponsorship form (not required), follow this link to our website:

<https://rcmassmadeira.org/sponsored-walk/>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting these initiatives, inspired by Father Bernardino's example, to alleviate the suffering of the poor.

- Debbie Jesus (deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk)